

Media, PA – Today Congressman Joe Sestak (PA-7), along with Lt. Col. Frank Pawlowski, State Police Commissioner, The Honorable Laurie Magid, Acting U.S. Attorney, The Honorable Michael Green, Delaware County District Attorney, and Special Agent in Charge Karl Colder of the Drug Enforcement Agency partook in a check presentation.

The checks, totaling nearly 1.2 million dollars, were presented to Delaware County and the Pennsylvania State Police stemming from their involvement in multiyear, multijurisdictional investigation of a drug operation that was taking place in Chester Township, Delaware County in 2003 to 2004. That investigation resulted in 52 federal indictments, numerous convictions, and the seizure of well over a million dollars in assets.

“Unfortunately, illegal drugs are endemic in our society. They ruin individuals, families, and whole communities. Only by working together at the federal, state, and local level can we effectively fight this scourge,” said Congressman Sestak. “I served in our Navy when illegal drug use was rampant in the early 1970’s. We then instituted a zero tolerance for drug abuse. The difference was extraordinary,” said Sestak. “When the drug use was limited, trust, safety, family happiness and efficiency reached unprecedented levels. We must do what we can to offer this generation of young people a safe haven from the predators who traffic in illegal drugs,” continued Sestak.

“There are two key principals that we saw in action in this operation. First, what I learned in the military are joint operations are the best. And here what we saw what begins as a local issue soon had a drug connection to California. This allowed the cooperation of federal authorities with state and local law enforcement and the utilization of the two tools of hard federal drug sentencing laws and the forfeiture laws.”

“And that brings me to the second principal that security truly begins at home. We can not have true education or economic security without security on our streets. The forfeiture law passed by a bipartisan Congress and signed by the President in 2000 that gives the majority of the money directly to the local authorities bodes well.”

At the federal level, Delaware County was recently added to the High Intensity Drug Trafficking Areas Program and Congressman Sestak has fought to increase funding to that program so that our law enforcement agencies have the resources they need. “I recently met with

Superintendent Chitwood to discuss how we can work together in Upper Darby to fight crime. I admire his tenacity and will do all that I can to help him and his fellow law enforcement leaders acquire the tools they need to assure the citizens of all of the communities of the 7th Congressional District the quality of life they deserve,” Said Sestak.

“I am focused on every possible avenue to reduce crime in young people from pre-K education to mentoring in middle schools and high schools to help them find meaningful careers. To that end, I co-sponsored The Providing Resources Early for Kids (Pre-K) Act, which would have authorize federal grants to enhance the quality of pre-kindergarten programs operated by school districts for better-trained teachers, smaller classroom sizes, health screenings, and other essential components of a high-quality preparation for kindergarten. This legislation had near unanimous support of the law enforcement community. I also voted and co-sponsored The Improving Head Start for School Readiness Act, a bill to enhance funding for the federal Head Start program and to strengthen focus on school readiness by updating standards using the best research available and align Head Start performance standards with research-based early learning standards.”

“As in every war, in the war on illegal drugs, we will have victories and setbacks. The key is to keep on fighting,” concluded Sestak.

*Born and raised in Delaware County, former 3-star Admiral Joe Sestak served in the Navy for 31 years and now serves as the Representative from the 7th District of Pennsylvania. He led a series of operational commands at sea, including Commander of an aircraft carrier battle group of 30 U.S. and allied ships with over 15,000 sailors and 100 aircraft that conducted operations in Afghanistan and Iraq. After 9/11, Joe was the first Director of "Deep Blue," the Navy's anti-terrorism unit that established strategic and operations policies for the "Global War on Terrorism." He served as President Clinton's Director for Defense Policy at the National Security Council in the White House, and holds a Ph.D. in Political Economy and Government from Harvard University. According to the office of the House Historian, Joe is the highest-ranking former military officer ever elected to the Congress.*

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